

VIA: _____
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. EAVA 19394

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

201-

DATE: 21. März 1958

TO : Chief, EE

Attn: ☒

FROM : Chief of Station, ^{WRENNA} ~~WRENNA~~ ^{28K}

SUBJECT: GENERAL— GROOVY GREFFIGY OPERATIONS

SPECIFIC— Johann *MARGARIT (also spelled Jon or Ion MARGARIT, aka Jon or Ion *STANESCU, *MATESCU, born 19 March 1914 (also reported 17 March 1914) in Breaza, Greece)

Headquarters Action Requested: None, for files.

1. Forwarded herewith is an eight-frame film strip covering Johann MARGARIT's life history as ~~an~~ Austrian Military Intelligence Service. The strip is a portion of ~~the~~ ^{his} 7 March production. It probably represents a part of the official report by MARGARIT's AMIS case officer on their 10 February 1958 meeting (see VIM 19472, attached to EAVA 19296). MARGARIT's self-recruitment in December 1957 or January 1958 as a potential intelligence source for the AMIS was reported in EAVA 19381.

2. The attached, which includes the names of many of MARGARIT's old intelligence contacts, has only been briefly scanned here. However, we doubt if it contains any information not already available in Kubark files. It may have some value as a summary of his activities and is outlined below for the convenience of any future file reference.

a. Johann MARGARIT was born 19 March 1914 in Breaza, Greece, the son of a Rumanian citizen living in Greece. He first went to the Rumanian-sponsored schools in Greece and then on to Rumania for his higher education. He returned to Greece in 1934 as a Rumanian citizen.

b. From 1934 to 1938 he remained in Greece as a school teacher, ending up as a school supervisor and inspector.

c. In 1937, he was one of the founding members of a secret Macedonian organization and at the same time on the board of the local Macedonian municipal administration.

d. From 1938 to 1940 he served as the liaison man for an official Macedonian minority organization with other such organizations in Albania, Yugoslavia and Rumania.

e. The German occupation of Greece split his Macedonian organization into a pro-German group and an underground, communist dominated, anti-German group. In 1942, the Germans made MARGARIT the head of the pro-German group.

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f. In mid-1953, MARGARIT, with most of his group, joined the German Brandenburg Division. MARGARIT states that he was infiltrated into the ranks of the anti-German Macedonian partisans and reported on their activities by radio to the Germans.

g. At the end of the war MARGARIT was interned in the Klagenfurt/Villach area of Austria. He escaped from internment, when he learned that the IRO planned to deport him to Greece, and went to Graz where he stayed until 1948.

h. In Graz he set about making money as fast as possible "to be used for the relief of the Macedonian minority in his homeland". To achieve this, he took up the intelligence game again and supplemented this by smuggling activities. One of his earliest intelligence contacts was with the Americans in Switzerland. This contact did not turn out to be very profitable, so he turned to the Gehlen organization.

i. In 1947 he offered to set up an intelligence net in Greece for Gehlen. Gehlen turned this down but suggested he switch his plans to Rumania. MARGARIT was to get in touch with the Rumanian "Iron Guard" and try to win them over to active intelligence work for the West. In late 1947, he entered Rumania illegally with the help of the Gehlen organization through Otto von BOLSCHWING (known to headquarters), returning in May of 1948.

j. In 1949 he had a new suggestion for Gehlen. This time he offered to set up a Macedonian Unification Movement. The proposal was finally accepted in 1951 and he was promised, again through von BOLSCHWING, between \$3,000 and \$6,000 in support if he would also collect OB and other intelligence information. MARGARIT states that this was unacceptable to him, and his refusal led to the break between MARGARIT and von BOLSCHWING.

k. In 1956, MARGARIT heard that one of his old Macedonian colleagues was negotiating with the Rumanian Embassy in Vienna to get the Rumanian government to pay the pensions due various Macedonian teachers from pre-war days. He had also heard that the Rumanians had agreed to pay the pensions, but that they were using this as a gimmick to set up intelligence operations in Greece. MARGARIT started a correspondence with the Rumanian Embassy over the pension business and was duly asked to come to Vienna. On 10 October 1956 he had a clandestine meeting with a member of the Rumanian Embassy (name not given) and was promised that the Rumanians would look out for the interests of the Macedonian minority if MARGARIT would work for them as an agent of their intelligence service. MARGARIT claims that he put them off, hoping to get German support for a double agent roll. However, the Germans turned him down and he is now offering the Austrians his services.

3. At present, we have no further information on MARGARIT's proposed double agent role. Any further developments will be covered in the ☐ correspondence.

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